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**LEEK RURAL DISTRICT
COUNCIL**

ANNUAL REPORT

of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
and the
SANITARY INSPECTOR

for the year 1955

December 1956

Hill Bros. (Leek) Ltd., Haywood Street, Leek.

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LEEK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE 1955

Chairman:

COUNCILLOR ROBERT W. CRITCHLOW

Vice-Chairman:

COUNCILLOR C. R. HEWLETT

Members:

Councillor	Rev. W. T. D. Attoe	Councillor	Major T. Harvey
"	W. Axon	"	Mrs. M. A. Marshall
"	J. Bennison	"	H. Mear
"	A. Buckley	"	T. Riley
"	T. W. Buxton	"	J. Rushtan
"	J. L. Findlow	"	P. Smith
"	J. W. Grindan	"	J. G. Stubbs
"	R. G. Grindon	"	E. Tittertan
"	H. Hammond	"	A. Wood
"	J. Harrison		

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

Medical Officer of Health:

H. KELSO WATSON, M.B., Ch.B.

Sanitary Inspector:

D. K. PEDLEY, M.R.S.H., M.S.I.A., Certified Food Inspector

Additional Sanitary Inspector:

T. SPENCER, Cert. R.S.I. (Appointed October 1955)

Clerk

MISS B. J. WOOLRIDGE

REPORT

GENERAL STATISTICS

Area	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	72,623 acres
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5,144
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	65,391
Sum represented by penny rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£254/11/6
Estimated Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	17,650
Number of persons per acre	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	.24

INDUSTRIES

The main occupations of the inhabitants are farming and mining, but a substantial number of persons are employed in the silk mills in Leek, and in the quarries on the Derbyshire border.

VITAL STATISTICS

Live Births	M	F	TOTAL
Legitimate	123	109	232
Illegitimate	5	4	9
	—	—	—
	128	113	241

Birthrate per 1,000 of the population—13.6

Stillbirths	M	F	TOTAL
Legitimate	2	2	4
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	—	—	—
	2	2	4

Rate per 1,000 of the population—.23

Deaths (all ages)	M	F	TOTAL
	90	87	177

Death rate per 1,000 of the population—10.0

Deaths of Infants (Under 1 year)	M	F	TOTAL
Legitimate	4	1	5
Illegitimate	1	—	1
	—	—	—
	5	1	6

Death rate per 1,000 live births—24.9

TUBERCULOSIS

The table below shows the number of cases on the Tuberculosis Register at the end of the year, and figures for the eight preceding years are given for comparison purposes.

	Pulmonary Tuberculosis			Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis			Total (Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary)		
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	M	F	Total
1955	112	90	202	29	31	60	141	121	262
1954	111	88	199	30	32	62	141	120	261
1953	107	87	194	29	31	60	136	118	254
1952	106	80	186	27	30	57	133	110	243
1951	102	77	179	27	29	56	129	106	235
1950	99	74	173	31	30	61	130	104	234
1949	96	71	167	31	30	61	127	101	228
1948	78	66	144	31	29	60	109	95	204
1947	69	68	137	29	28	57	98	96	194

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The figures below show the Incidence of Infectious Diseases in 1955 in comparison to those of the three preceding years:

	1955	1954	1953	1952
Measles	190	180	54	254
Whooping Cough	22	114	35	39
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	4	10	4	8
Scarlet Fever	8	16	18	15
Erysipelas	2	5	2	—
Cerebra-Spinal Meningitis	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	1	2	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis ...	4	—	—	1
Paratyphoid Fever ...	—	—	—	—
Pneum. Meningitis ...	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	1
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	1	—	1	3
Total Cases ...	232	327	114	321

Incidence of Infectious Diseases

Parishes	Measles	Whooping Cough	Pneumonia	Scarlet Fever	Erysipelas	Dysentery	Acute Poliomyelitis	Food Poisoning
Alstonefield	3	3	1					
Bagnall	1							
Bradnop								
Butterton	27	1						
Endon and Stanley	22	3	1	1	1			
Fawcett	22	2						
Grindon	4							
Heathcote	1						1	
Heaton					1			
Hollinsclough	1						2	
Horton	1		1	3				
Ilam	5							
Leekfrith							1	
Longnor	2							
Longsdon	10							
Norton-in-the-Moors	66	1		2				
Onecote				1				
Quarnford		1	1					
Rushton	2	3				1		
Sheen		7						
Titteswarth	3			1				1
Warslow and Elkstones	20	1						
Wetton								
Total	190	22	4	8	2	1	4	1
Months of Occurrence								
January	27	7	1					
February	21	10		1				
March	43	2		3				
April	16			1				
May	11		1		1	1		
June	55	1						
July	11							
August	4		1				1	1
September	1	2			1			
October	1			1			2	
November			1	1			1	
December				1				
Total	190	22	4	8	2	1	4	1

Age Incidence of Infectious Diseases

AGE GROUP	Measles		Whooping Cough		Pneumonia		Scarlet Fever		Erysipelas		Dysentery		Acute Polymyelitis		Food Poisoning	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 1 Year	2	2	4	2												
1—5 Years	50	41	4	6			2	2					1			
6—10 Years	37	36	2	2			1	3					1			
11—15 Years	7	2														
16—20 Years	2											1				
21—30 Years	3	1			1	1			1						1	
31—50 Years	3	1			1	1							1			
51—70 Years										1						
Over 70 Years																
TOTAL	104	86	10	12	2	2	3	5	1	1	—	1	3	1	1	—
TOTAL — Male and Female	190		22		4		8		2		1		4		1	

Causes of Death in Leek Rural District 1955

Causes of Death	Males	Females
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	2	—
Tuberculosis, Other	—	—
Syphilitic disease	—	1
Diphtheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Meningococcal infection	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—
Measles	—	—
Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	4	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	2
Other malignant lymphotic neoplasms	4	13
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	—
Diabetes	—	1
Vascular lesions of nervous system	14	21
Coronary disease, angina	15	10
Hypertension with heart disease	1	1
Other heart disease	21	16
Other circulatory disease	4	4
Influenza	1	—
Pneumonia	2	—
Bronchitis	3	2
Other disease of respiratory system	1	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	—
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	1	1
Hyperplasia of prostate	—	—
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	—	2
Congenital malformations	4	—
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	8
Motor Vehicle accidents	2	—
All other accidents	4	—
Suicide	—	—
Homicide and operations of war	—	—
Total — all causes	90	87

Sanitary inspection of the Area —

Summary of Visits

HOUSING:

(a)	Inspection for defects	58
(b)	Council House applicants	92
(c)	Moveable dwellings	6
(d)	Housing Inspections	207
(e)	Improvement Grant applicants	142
		<hr/> 505

GENERAL:

Inspection of premises for nuisances	97
Food premises	25
Slaughterhouses and knackers' yard	877
Drainage inspections	122
Proposed drainage and conversions	63
Light Oaks and Brown Edge Sewerage	12
Water supplies—general	31
Samples of water taken	61
Shops	103
Refuse and nightsoil collection and disposal	66
Infectious diseases	16
Fumigations	13
Rodent control	37
Factories	4
Petroleum stores	9
Miscellaneous	58
	<hr/> 2099

NOTICES SERVED

1.	Informal Notices	162
	Statutory Notices	4
2.	(a) Number of Nuisances Remedied .	87
	(b) Number of defective dwellings rendered fit following service of Statutory and Informal notices ...	55

Water supplies

The district is served with water mains in the following areas:

Parishes of Endon and Stanley (part) Horton, and Longsdon (part)—Leek R.D.C. supply, the water being obtained in bulk from the Leek Urban District Council's Borehole at Pool End.

Parishes of Bagnall, Endon and Stanley (part) Longsdon (part) and Norton-in-the-Moors—Staffordshire-Potteries Water Board Supply.

In addition, the Council maintains small village supplies at Longnar, Grindan and Warslow. The quantity and quality of these supplies is being kept constantly under supervision and frequent sampling is carried out. It is hoped that the day is not far ahead when the Eastern Parishes water scheme, the first part of which was commenced in October, 1954, will replace these inadequate supplies.

Sixty-one samples of water were taken during the year for Bacteriological examination and twenty-one for Chemical Analysis.

The results of these are tabulated below:—

Source	Bacteriological Examination			Chemical Analysis		
	No. of Samples Taken	Fit	Unfit	No. of Samples Taken	Fit	Unfit
Well	13	3	10	7	4	3
Spring	43	24	19	11	8	3
Borehole	5	5	—	3	3	—
Total	61	32	29	21	15	6

Three analyses indicated that the water has plumba-solvent action, but as these samples were taken in respect of proposed supplies they were not proceeded with.

Horton, Longsdon and Rudyard Water Scheme

It is again disappointing to report that applications have been surprisingly low, only 24 connections having been made during the year. This brings the total number of connections to-date as 135.

The properties supplied are:—

	Dwelling Houses	Farms and other Metered Supplies
Endon	3	—
Horton	71	32
Longsdon	21	8
	<hr/> 95	<hr/> 40

EASTERN PARISHES WATER SUPPLY. SECTION "A" PART 1

This scheme which was commenced in October, 1954, to supply the parishes of Ilam, Alstonfield and Wetton with a piped water supply made considerable progress during the year and by the end of December approximately 7 miles of main had been laid.

In view of the fact that the Contractors had much rock and heavy-going to contend with, the progress on this scheme has been most satisfactory.

Drainage and Sewerage

There were no extensions to the sewers or sewage disposal works completed during the year.

At the Endon Sewage Works the media was renewed to 1 filter bed and similar renewals are planned for the other two beds during next year. These works, as are the works at Baddeley Green and Norton Green, are sadly overloaded and additions and reconstructions are vital to meet the demands placed upon them. In the meantime, everything possible is being done to cope with the conditions existing.

In December, a commencement was made on the Sewerage schemes to serve the Light Oaks and Brown Edge (Syth Road) areas. These schemes, when completed and connections made, will obviously add to the problem of the overloaded disposal works referred to, particularly at Baddeley Green.

Several privy conversions were carried out in the parish of Norton-in-the-Moors and at Moss Hill, Stockton Brook, nine modern properties which drained to a communal septic tank were connected to the public sewer.

Refuse, Nightsoil and Salvage Collection

The collection of refuse, nightsoil and salvage is carried out by direct labour in every parish.

During the year the Council's House Refuse Sub-Committee considered the re-organisation of the collection service, and as a result, an additional vehicle is to be brought into operation on the refuse collection round serving the parishes of Bagnall, Endon and Stanley, Harton, Langsdan and Nartan-in-the-Maars. This area, which is vastly developing will now be served with three vehicles instead of two as hitherto. The other rounds remain as set out in last year's report.

A new tip at Gun End was established during the year and is adequate to serve the needs of the Meerbrook, Heaton and Rushton areas for a considerable time.

HOUSING

New Houses Erected During the Year

(a) By Local Authority—Nartan Green Site (2 houses, 16 flats)	18
Rudyard Site	8
(b) By National Coal Board—Baddeley Green Site	204
Brown Edge Site	58
(c) By Private Enterprise	123
	<hr/> 411 <hr/>

Inspection of Dwelling Houses During the Year

(1)	(a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under the Public Health or Housing Acts)	195
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	207
(2)	(a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under sub-heading (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	56
	(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	63
(3)		Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	30
(4)		Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	142

REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its Officers	55
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ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR

(a)	Proceedings under the Public Health Act, 1936 .	Nil
(b)	Proceedings under the Housing Act, 1936, etc. ...	Nil
	Demolition Orders made	3
	Closing Orders made	14

FACTORIES ACTS 1937 AND 1948

NUMBER OF FACTORIES ON REGISTER	29
NUMBER OF INSPECTIONS MADE	4

Only one factory is of any size. No contraventions were discovered during the inspections made.

A small number of outworkers are employed, chiefly by the Silk Manufacturers in Leek and are concerned with the finishing of wearing apparel.

Improvement Grants

Number of applications received during the year	56
Number of Improvement Grants made in respect of:	
(a) Improvements to existing houses	44
(b) Conversion of buildings into living accommodation	2
Total cost of work involved qualifying for grant	£25,048
Total value of improvement grants approved	£11,095
Number of Improvement Grant applications refused	2
Number of Improvement Grant applications withdrawn	6
Number of Improvement Works completed during the year ...	39

Of the 46 grants approved, 36 were in respect of owner-occupied property and 10 in respect of tenanted property.

RODENT CONTROL

The Council provides a service of rat disinfestation to residential property and business premises, while the treatment of some of the farms in the area is carried out by the Agricultural Executive Committee under contract.

Several treatments were carried out during the year and in addition the Council's sewage works and refuse tips were serviced from time to time.

The public sewers are "test-baited" from time to time and treatments carried out as found necessary.

PETROLEUM ACTS

Forty-nine licences were issued for the bulk storage of 67,100 gallons of Petroleum spirit.

MEAT AND FOOD INSPECTION

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part

Carcases inspected	Cattle	Colves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	917	108	2851	839	—
Number inspected	917	108	2851	839	—
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci					
Whole carcasses condemned		1	1	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	104	—	199	10	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	11.34	.9	7.0	1.2	—
Tuberculosis only:					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	140	—	—	5	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	16.3	—	—	.6	—
Cysticercosis					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

MEAT AND OFFAL CONDEMNED

Weight of Meat condemned due to:—

(a) Tuberculosis	3,588 lbs.
(b) Other diseases or conditions	2,412 lbs.

6,000 lbs.

OTHER FOODS CONDEMNED

One tinned ham (12lbs.); one tinned tongue (12ozs.); 30lbs. ham.

FOOD INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION

FOOD SHOPS AND PREPARING PREMISES

By-laws as to handling, wrapping and delivery of food and sale of food in the open air are in operation in the Council's area.

Fifty-five shops are registered under the Act for the sale of Ice Cream.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks

One case of food poisoning was notified during the year.

MILK SUPPLY

THE MILK AND DAIRIES REGULATIONS AND THE SPECIAL DESIGNATION REGULATIONS

(1)	No. of Distributors	...	...	...	...	...	...	23
(2)	No. of licences issued to sell—							
					Dealers		Supplementary	
(a)	Tuberculin Tested Milk	...			10		1	
(b)	Sterilised Milk	...	...		18		2	
(c)	Pasteurised Milk	...	...		12		2	
					<hr/> 40		<hr/> 5	

H. KELSO WATSON

Medical Officer of Health.

D. K. PEDLEY

Sanitary Inspector.

